



There's lots of big news to cover in this issue, so put on your seatbelts & let's get started!

We have a report on the 2009 OBS Annual Fundraiser at Haak Winery. Everyone had a great time! There were still donations arriving after the event, so an online store has been set up for you to do shopping. The link is: https://www.giftberry.org/saleevent-info.php?sales_events_id=46&view_id=671018

Do check out this new site for OBS: <http://www.notanotherfruitcake.org/> (I LOVE the name!)

It has In The Name of Donations which are great gifts that also benefit orphans. The site has our video/photo montage of the 2009 year that Mindi made.

The video can also be found on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISKm5YAYBHq&fmt=22>

Current Projects

- Nova Borova Commercial Laundry Equipment—**Complete!**
- Surgery for Kostya—Fully Funded!
- Svalyava Baby Orphanage Kitchen Renovation
- Playground Pavilions for Baby Orphanages
- GFI In-House Vocational Training
- Potoki Shoe Project
- Vocational Education Project—Poltava
- Vocational Education Project—Green Forest Internat
- GFI Desks & Bookshelves—**Complete!**

Look on our website at www.orphanbrightstar.org for more information, updates, Orphanage Needs, & a list of our Completed Projects.

Stacey & Elizabeth's trip was a success! They visited Kremenchuk Baby House, & the 2 Internats where we have sponsored graduates: Green Forest Internat in Kharkiv & Potoki Internat in Poltava. They took the directors shopping for their most needed items. Stacey & Elizabeth sent us "live" updates through the Yahoo Group while still in country, courtesy of the generously donated lap top. They took tons of pictures, so be sure to use the links to the photo albums.

At long last the Nova Borova Commercial Laundry Equipment Project is complete! This was a long project, but the benefits are quite needed, appreciated & will last for many years.

Also: We have a total from the Dorm Storm, Super Holiday news from Hewlett-Packard, other updates, & descriptions of many new projects that have been started.

Thanks to all the help from our supporters, every individual & group having a unique role in helping these orphans, we've all accomplished much TOGETHER.



An Orphan's Bright Star

501(c)(3) Non-Profit

431 Biscayne Blvd

El Lago, Texas 77586

Web Site:

<http://www.orphanbrightstar.org/>

Photo Site:

<http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/>

Donations:

Address for a donation check:
An Orphan's Bright Star
431 Biscayne Boulevard
El Lago, Texas 77586

If you prefer PayPal :

www.orphanbrightstar.org/donations.html

An Orphan's Bright Star also accepts MasterCard and VISA donations. Contact Mindi, mindi@orphanbrightstar.org for more information.

Yahoo Group:

Join our Yahoo group! This is a great way to get news as it happens, stay informed, get involved & meet other supporters. Messages can be searched by key words.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphanBrightStar/>

News Blog:

<http://orphanbrightstar.blogspot.com>

angela@orphanbrightstar.org

Facebook:

For all you social net-workers!

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/140886?m=48fc3623>

cristin@orphanbrightstar.org

Project Updates

Nova Borova Commercial Laundry Equipment

This was a BIG project that can now officially be checked off as COMPLETE. The laundry equipment for Nova Borova Internat is IN! In case you are not up on your commercial laundry equipment, this massive thing pictured at right, dries & presses clothes as they are fed through it. Expensive, but does the job of 2 things at once. They also received a commercial wringer.

This was a long project but SO, SO worth it. This will help them for years & years!

Thanks to everyone who made this possible!

Special thanks to Bea and her school for providing so much of the funds for this project!

Special thanks to Vika, Gayla & Pascal for their hard work on location making this project a reality!

Another great completion!



Unloading the new laundry equipment at Nova Borova!



The 80+ girls & the staff at Nova Borova Internat give you a huge thank you for making such a difference in their lives! Thank you for thinking of them & caring for them.



2009 OBS Annual Fundraiser

An Orphan's Bright Star held its 2nd fundraiser, "Shimmer Shine Whimsy & Wine", at [Haak Vineyards and Winery](#) in Houston on Saturday, October 3rd. The venue was fantastic and the food and wine delicious and plentiful. Our band, [Andy & the Dreamsicles](#), played and sang their hearts out for us and had the crowd up on the dance floor most of the time. Our emcee, author and speaker [Dayna Steele](#), rounded out the event with her enthusiasm and surprising factoids about the rock star entertainers she's worked with over the years.

The event consisted of an online, silent and live auction as well as the party at Haak, and the proceeds from all of these made it possible to provide the Nova Borova Special Needs Orphanage for Girls with badly needed laundry equipment, a wringing machine and drying-ironing press.

Special thanks goes out to Haak Vineyards & Winery for hosting and making possible such a wonderful occasion, and to our Silver Corporate Sponsors: [Living Magazine](#), [Postal Publications](#) & [Valero](#).

Another round of appreciation is extended to all of the companies who donated generously to our various auctions: [AirTran](#), [Asics](#), Author [Diana Gabaldon](#), Author [Eric A. Kimmel](#), Author [Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch](#), [Ben & Jerry's](#), [Bikram's Yoga College of India](#), [BJ's Restaurant](#), [Boondoggles Restaurant](#), [Cafe Adobe](#), [Charley's Grilled Subs](#), [Chelsea Williams Photography](#), [Children's Museum of Houston](#), Concert Pianist [Lydia Artymiw](#), [Cracker Barrel](#), [Dave & Buster's](#), [Design Toscano](#), [Designs by Miller](#), [Earthwise Bags](#), [eSpindle.org](#), [Estee Lauder Companies](#), [FantaSea Yacht Charters](#), [Free Ur Feet](#), [Gringo's Mexican Kitchen](#), [Gymboree](#), Illustrator Michael Martchenko, Heavyweight Champ [Wladimir Klitschko](#), [Hilton Houston Post Oak](#), [Hotel Granduca](#), [Hotel Intercontinental Houston](#), [Houston Aeros](#), [Houston Astros](#), [Houston Ballet](#), [Houston Symphony](#), [Houston Texans](#), [Houstonian Hotel](#), [Indika Organics](#), Joan Stout, [Kemah Boardwalk](#), [Kroger](#), [La Torretta Del Lago Resort & Spa](#), Lisa Bush, [Lydia Bodnar-Balahutrak](#), [Monster Energy](#), [Mrs. Field's](#), [Novica.com](#), [Opi](#), [Overstock.com](#), [Pei Wei](#), [philosophy](#), [Pizza Hut](#), [Potbelly Sandwich Works](#), [Putt Putt Fun House](#), Robinette & Company Caterers, [Ruth's Chris Steakhouse](#), [Sam Houston Race Park](#), [Seaworld](#), [Spa & Wellness Center at South Shore](#), [Swatch](#), [Taco Cabana](#), Tennis Player [Ana Ivanovic](#), Dan Allison & [Texas Collaborative](#), Vanessa Gajewski, [Walt Disney Land](#), [Winspire](#), and [Zio's Restaurant](#).

Mindi Davis

Project Updates

an orphan's bright star

Trip to Ukraine

What a trip!

The morning of September 21, 2009 was spent at Kremenchuk Baby House by Stacey & Elizabeth from OBS, Vika the OBS in-country contact & Pascal from LAdS. What a joy to see all the changes & improvements! It is bright & cheery & more modern looking. There was more interaction between the children & caregivers, & other indications that they are progressing.

Prior to discussing business matters, Elizabeth presented children updates provided by adoptive families as Vika translated. The Deputy Director was so surprised by their development & remembered each & every child presented. If you provided an update, you will see many photos in the album.

Several albums have been added to the Kremenchuk photo page:

<http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/kremenchukorphanage>

Photos include a tour of the buildings & playground, OBS donations in use, children at play, & medical equipment purchased.

Live updates & later reports are given in our Yahoo Group. Please see messages #2253 by Stacey, & #2275 by Elizabeth:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/message/2253>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/message/2275>



The afternoon of September 21, 2009 was spent at Potoki Internat. The group met up with Anya, another in-country contact, & Nicholi from Anya's church. What a warm welcome they received—the children swarmed them!

They visited the classrooms, handed out treats for the kids, stressed the graduates program—encouraging the kids to study hard, & received a tour of some other buildings & the grounds. Pictures of these activities plus the visit to the Technical School & items purchased with the OBS donations that were hand carried are in albums on the Potoki Internat photo page: <http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/potokiinternat>



Please see messages #2263 by Stacey, & #2278 by Elizabeth in our Yahoo Group:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/message/2263>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/message/2278>

These kids need anything & everything, so if you ever feel like your donation won't matter, is not enough, etc. think again!

ANYTHING will help these kids that have almost nothing.

September 23, 2009 was spent at Green Forest Internat by Stacey & Elizabeth from OBS, Vika the OBS in country contact & Pascal from LAdS all of whom received a warm welcome.

A tour of the buildings & grounds showed many improvements: new windows, wallpaper, furniture, entry room, & even the playground. They have done away with the large sleeping rooms & have redone them to have only 2 kids per room. It is a much better arrangement, especially for the teens. The Director is extremely happy with the graduate program.

More pictures from this visit can be found here:

<http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/greenforestinternat>

A report is given in our Yahoo Group. Please see message #2270 by Elizabeth. An excerpt: "It was Natasha's 50th birthday. That made for a perfect chance to give her the notebook computer Natalie sent. She was nearly in tears to receive this. It means a lot to her to be able to keep the sponsors updated more timely."

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OrphansBrightStar/message/2270>



Project Updates

SUPER HOLIDAY NEWS from Hewlett-Packard!



One of our generous donors works for Hewlett-Packard. He and his wife took advantage of HP's in kind donation policy last summer and donated an HP mini netbook. They liked helping our Ukrainian orphans!

So while President Mindi was in Steamboat Springs, she received an e-mail from HP saying, "HP would like to donate technology equipment to your organization." Up there on the ski slopes with the family, Mindi wasn't checking her blackberry too often, but luckily she noticed that message in time to comply with HP's 3 day acceptance window. She faxed in the agreement and completed forms.

Here's the news she received from HP:

"Congratulations on your grant and thank you for the outstanding work you are doing.

Sincerely, The HP Employee Product Giving Program Team"

The gift: 3- 10" Minis, list \$575, total value of \$1575 !!!!! (Our donor gave 1/4 of that!)

We had requested these minis for our OBS contacts at the orphanages to use to send reports and photos back to OBS, and for receiving information from us. **But now 3, in addition to the one last summer!**

A huge help to us! Natalie



For the gift that is the perfect fit for every size, every age, every preference – "In The Name Of" Donations can be found at our newest web site, NotAnotherFruitcake.org! This time you will be sure to give them a gift that will be loved, needed and used!

<http://www.notanotherfruitcake.org/>

Nova Borova Internat Christmas

Kennita put together a marvelous collection of treat bags for the girls!



Thank you Kennita for your dedication to the children in Ukraine!

Dorm Storm

The AX sorority dorm storm at Trinity was a success! We received \$507.40!

"My girls & I will be visiting the campus again around March-ish to kick off the 2010 fundraiser event for the sorority. An Orphan's Bright Star is their designated charity! GO AX!

Mindi"

Kremenchuk Medical Equipment

\$1,500 was raised to purchase equipment necessary in the physiotherapy room of the Kremenchuk Baby Orphanage. Purchases included: an Inhalation Therapy Apparatus, Oxygen Foam Apparatus, a Disinfecting Lamp & Muscle Stimulating Device as well as extra supplies for all of the equipment.

Here is a link to the photos from the shopping on Sept 21, 2009 in

Ukraine: <http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/kremenchukorphanage/769>



Kremenchuk Flu Vaccination Project

A generous donor provided the funding to supply all the children in Kremenchuk Baby House with flu shots - \$2,000!

The director & staff are extremely grateful for this additional level of protection from illness for the children.



Potoki Shoe Project

Buckner International's ministry Shoes For Orphan Souls sent shoes for Potoki Internat right away & they are already en route! What a wonderful & generous ministry they are!

<http://www.shoesfororphansouls.org/>

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Work in Progress

Surgery for Kostya



Kostya's dream will come true thanks to our generous donors! We did it! Together we raised the amount to fund the operation to remove Kostya's cataracts. Thank you to each & every one of you who helped by donating or spreading the word!

We are currently speaking with our contacts in Ukraine regarding a surgery date for Kostya. Due to the H1N1 outbreak in Ukraine, it is likely we will not be able to get him a surgical date prior to January.

Cristin

Here is a link to this angel's photo album:

<http://anorphansbrightstar.shutterfly.com/kremenchukorphanage/1159>

Playground Pavilions for Baby Orphanages

The baby orphanages use playground pavilions such as the one in the picture on the right, to take the younger children outdoors for fresh air and sunshine. Caregivers can spend one-on-one time with individual children, confident that the remainder of the group does not wander away & are safe. It is also a good place for the children to play when it is too hot to play in direct sunlight.

The existing pavilions are made of wood, are very old, & too dangerous for the children to enter any more.

The directors at Svalyava & Kremenchuk Orphanages have asked for 2 pavilions each. We will be able to purchase commercial grade play areas made of steel & have them installed for about \$800 each.

For more information on this project contact Elizabeth at elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org.

To make a donation towards the project use this link: <http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/donations.htm>



Green Forest Internat In-House Training



From haircuts to hammers, the staff at GFI is constantly trying to prepare students graduating with skills for the future.

The staff at GFI just finished creating a hair styling station/room. It is all brand new and sparkles with mirrors, tile, etc. The barber chair is ready for business! Now, they must find funding for scissors, clippers, a teacher etc. to begin teaching those interested hair styling. The kids can use this skill when they graduate and to help the other students look good!

GFI has also recently refurbished all of the groups living space into smaller, bedrooms for the kids. This is especially important for the

older kids. Many of the kids at the orphanage participated in the remodeling process. The staff has requested that we fund some basic tools and tool boxes so that they can teach more skills to the students that want to learn basic repair/remodeling skills.

Svalyava Baby Orphanage Kitchen Renovation

The kitchen at the Svalyava Baby Orphanage is in need of renovation after many years of use providing for the children at the home. Any kitchen renovation project is an expensive undertaking, and therefore we are approaching this project step by step under the guidance of the orphanage director. The overall project is currently divided into 1) floor repair 2) electrical and ventilation systems repair and 3) window repair.

For more information on this project, contact Mindi at

mindi@orphansbrightstar.org

Any contribution towards this large scale project would be greatly appreciated. The donation link is:

<http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/donations.htm>



For more information about current fundraising activities see our Projects page on the web site:

<http://www.orphansbrightstar.org/projects.htm>

Many Ways to Help Raise Funds

Employer Matching Donations – FREE Funds for OBS Projects!

Don't forget to check about employer matching program for charitable donations. Corporations will match up to three times your donated amount to OBS! Can you imagine your \$25 donation turning into \$100 for the children?! Do it now! Check if your employer matches contributions, and check on the charitable donation programs for employers of spouses, friends, and family as well. It is an amazingly EZ way to fund our projects.

MAGAZINES ... For All of the Readers in our Group

Please renew your magazines or subscribe to new ones for yourself or others as gifts thru our [link](#) and we will get a commission: www.magfundraising.com/orphansbrightstar. Of all our associate relationships, this one provides the biggest percentage back to OBS. The prices are great and you can help a child too! What could be easier?!

Box Top\$ For Education

Don't forget to save your [box tops](#). Ask friends & family to collect them as well. Every top is worth \$0.10 to OBS. Send them to Joan Stout, 725 130th Ave, Pipestone, MN, 56154. In September Joan sent a check for \$300+ !

Campbell Soup Labels

Joan is also in charge of collecting [labels](#). Unlike my school days, it's not just soup labels anymore! There are *many* items that are participating which will earn 1-Point. Don't forget to check out the 5-Point products too! They all add up!



www.boxtops4education.com



www.labelsforeducation.com

Thank you to all who have been saving & sending!



Keep a labeled envelope in your kitchen drawer near a scissor. It's so much easier to cut labels, box tops, coupons, & Kellogg's promotional clippings to send to Joan.

Don't forget the Giffberry Holiday Store!

https://www.giffberry.org/salesevent-info.php?sales_events_id=46&view_id=671018

Surf the Net!

www.goodsearch.com Good Search is a search engine powered by Yahoo. Go to the web address, and enter "An Orphan's Bright Star" (based in Texas) in the box that asks you who you are searching for. It works just like any other search engine and earns \$0.01 for every search. We received hundreds from this source. Every search makes a difference.

We are also registered at isearch.igive.com. For a limited time they are again offering \$0.02 for every search.

Do Some Shopping!

www.iGive.com Register at iGive.com, then shop as you usually do online. Downloading the shopping window is helpful, especially if others use your computer. Then it will count their purchases too. A percentage of your purchase price will automatically be given to OBS. Sign up, purchase within 45 days through iGive.com and OBS gets a \$5 bonus. We are nearing \$1,000 raised by our supporters through this site.

www.amazon.com Go through our link to provide 5% of your purchase price to OBS.

www.amazon.co.uk The link for United Kingdom.

Even purchase groceries at Randall's and you will raise funds for OBS!

<http://www.randalls.com/randalls/tomthumbgoodneighborprogram>

Go to the service desk and ask them to associate your Randall's card with our account #11507. One trip and that's it – all of your future purchases will provide a percentage to OBS.





Café Press has an assortment of merchandise available for sale with the OBS logo. Check it out!

<http://www.cafepress.com/>



Hampshire Pewter Keepsake

The Hampshire Pewter Company designed this beautiful keepsake for An Orphan's Bright Star. They are \$20 each with free shipping in the United States.



We have a donor church group in New Mexico who are selling *beautiful Ukrainian calendars* this Christmas- \$20 + \$5 for shipping. AND the greatest news is:

All proceeds from the calendar and any left over postage fees will go to "An Orphan's Bright Star." Cash gifts for the parishioners, as well.

These generous gifts coming just out of the blue ~well, New Mexico, are a tremendous help to our programs, as we start 2010.

Their calendar is inspirational and so are the kind friends who have set up this fundraiser for our kids! Thanks so very much! Natalie

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EBay Auctions



EBay Auctions are a GREAT way to contribute to An Orphan's Bright Star! You have quality items you don't use anymore taking up valuable space in your home.... We are a MissionFish.org charity who can sell them on eBay to benefit the orphaned children of Ukraine. Just provide us with picture(s), description, shipping cost, and any price constraints. Joan will post the item and let you know when it is sold so that you can send it to the buyer. Or, you can send your items to her: Joan Stout 725 130th Ave Pipestone, MN 56164.

If you have any other questions please contact Joan: joan@orphansbrightstar.org

Or begin your shopping here: http://search.ebay.com/_W0QqsassZorphansbrightstar

OBS Membership Roster

Mary Lee is putting together the OBS Membership Roster which will include member names, addresses, telephone numbers, cell phone numbers, and e-mail addresses. This is optional--if you'd like to participate, please forward the information that you would like to include to:

MaryLeeAdoptiveMom@gmail.com

Thanks Mary Lee!

OBS Officers and Contacts

President & Executive Director: Mindi Davis, mindi@orphansbrightstar.org

Vice President & Assistant Executive Director:

Elizabeth Galligan, elizabeth@orphansbrightstar.org

Secretary: Cristin Andrews, cristin@orphansbrightstar.org

Director: Amanda Cole, amanda@orphansbrightstar.org

Director: Jill Skobel, jill@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member: Natalie, natalie@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member: Heather, heather@orphansbrightstar.org

Advisory Group Member & Box Tops for Education Coordinator:

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Membership Coordinator: Leanna Seyler, leanna@orphansbrightstar.org

EBay Coordinator: Joan Stout, joan@orphansbrightstar.org

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